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INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT  
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property/District Name: Hamilton Elementary/Middle Sch. Survey Number: B-4615

Project: Proposed Rehabilitation or Demolition Agency: S/PSCP

Site visit by MHT Staff: X no     yes Name                      Date                     

Eligibility recommended X Eligibility not recommended    

Criteria: X A     B     C     D Considerations:     A     B     C     D     E     F     G     None

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)  
Hamilton Elementary School is significant for its association with the development of education in Baltimore. Constructed in 1925 and 1934, Hamilton served the expanding populations of streetcar communities of Lauraville and Hamilton along Harford Road. The school is representative of the era in which Baltimore made widespread improvements to its educational facilities as result of the recommendations of the nationally-known educator, George Strayer. Baltimore appropriated construction funds for Hamilton Elementary in the second round of capital improvements during the implementation of Strayer's recommendations. Designed by Clyde and Nelson Friz, the three story building incorporates design recommendations of Mr. Strayer in its fenestration, floor plan, ventilation and setting. In addition, the City contracted Friz and Friz to design two other schools, Arlington and Windsor Hills, with the same basic plan in an attempt to save money. We believe that the building is eligible under criterion A.

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Baltimore City Schools Architecture, 1829-1941

Prepared by: Peter E. Kurtze and Marcia Miller

Lauren Bowlin  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

November 18, 1994  
Date

NR program concurrence: X yes     no     not applicable

E. Bowlin 11.21.94  
Reviewer, NR program

                      
Date

Survey No. B-4615

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

I. Geographic Region:

☐ Eastern Shore (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)  
☐ Western Shore (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)  
☒ Piedmont (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)  
☐ Western Maryland (Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

☐ Paleo-Indian 10000-7500 B.C.  
☐ Early Archaic 7500-6000 B.C.  
☐ Middle Archaic 6000-4000 B.C.  
☐ Late Archaic 4000-2000 B.C.  
☐ Early Woodland 2000-500 B.C.  
☐ Middle Woodland 500 B.C. - A.D. 900  
☐ Late Woodland/Archaic A.D. 900-1600  
☐ Contact and Settlement A.D. 1570-1750  
☐ Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815  
☐ Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870  
☒ Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930  
☒ Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present  
☐ Unknown Period ( ☐ prehistoric ☐ historic)

III. Prehistoric Period Themes:

☐ Subsistence  
☐ Settlement  
☐ Political  
☐ Demographic  
☐ Religion  
☐ Technology  
☐ Environmental Adaption

IV. Historic Period Themes:

☐ Agriculture  
☒ Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning  
☐ Economic (Commercial and Industrial)  
☐ Government/Law  
☐ Military  
☐ Religion  
☒ Social/Educational/Cultural  
☐ Transportation

V. Resource Type:

Category: building

Historic Environment: urban

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): elementary school

Known Design Source: Clyde Friz and Nelson Friz

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS

B-4615





WEST

B-4615

HAMILTON ELEM #236

BALTO 9/94

#1

#1



94 9 26

WEST ELEV.

HAMILTON ELEM #236

BALTO 9/94  
#2

B-4615

#1

1980122 2 2 7710861





94

9

26



EAST 4 & NORTH

B-4615

HAMILTON ELEMENTARY #236

BALTO MD

9/94

#3

#2



94 9 26

HAMILTON ELEM #236

B-4615

BARTO. MD

#9/94

#4

#3



WEED  
TO  
LEARN

TAKE  
A  
BITE

INTO

READING

94

9

26

HAMILTON CLEM. #236

B-4615

BALTO. MD

9/94

#5



HAMILTON CEM. #236

B-4615

BALTO. MD

9/94

#6



# MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

B-4615  
NR Eligible: yes  
no

Property Name: Hamilton Elementary-Middle School

Address: 6101 Old Harford Road

City: Baltimore

Zip Code: 21214

County: None – Baltimore City

USGS Topographic Map:

Project: Hamilton Elementary-Middle School

Agency: Federal Communications Commission

Is the property located within a historic district?

NO

*If the property is within a district*

District Inventory Number:

Name of District:

NR-listed district

yes

Eligible district

yes

Preparer's Recommendation:

Not a contributing resource

*If the property is not within a district*

Preparer's Recommendation:

Not eligible

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Property not listed in Maryland Inventory of Historic Places

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and* Hamilton Elementary-Middle School is a typical example of school construction from the first third of the Twentieth Century, of which many examples are extant in Baltimore. The school was recently renovated extensively; the primary effects of the renovation are in the building's interior. The school is a four-level brick structure, the lowest floor of which is below grade on the front (Old Harford Road) side, and which emerges on the rear (playground) elevation as the site slopes downward to the east. Classroom fenestration is typically in banks of six nine-over-nine white double-hung windows. Stair towers are identified with taller fixed sash, subdivided horizontally between prominent vertical mullions in a pattern of two-three-two lites; these stairway windows vary in height. The line between the main entry level and the second floor is identified with a narrow limestone water table; a wider and deeper limestone water table occurs around the perimeter of the building above the top-floor windows and below the parapet. Roof drainage is announced by scuppers, metal collection boxes, and rectangular metal downspouts. The roof of the building is apparently flat and is now adorned by numerous cellular and microwave antennae. The main entrance to the building is on the west (Old Harford Road) side, through an expanse of lawn and mature trees. The principal building entries are announced with wide, relatively shallow Gothic arches in limestone. The rear of the buildings property is entirely given over to an asphalt-paved playground, around a one-story-high dependency in the same style and materials as the main building. This evidently houses the cafeteria, auditorium, or gymnasium. Although the school is a handsome asset to its community, it is not considered to be eligible for registration under Criteria A, B, or D. No known events, personages, or archaeological significance are associated with the property. Nor is it considered to be eligible for designation under Criterion C: Design/Construction. As mentioned, the building is typical of many such buildings still in use in Baltimore, the design of which is undistinguished, and which has been further compromised by the addition of a large number of communications antennae on the roof. The property is not listed in the Maryland Inventory of Historic Places.

Prepared by: William C. Riggs, RA, Historic Architect Date Prepared: 05.19.03

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility ~~not~~ recommended

*Criteria A.C. ✓*

MHT Comments

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

*[Signature]*

Date 6/20/03

Reviewer, NR Program

*[Signature]*

Date 6/20/03





HAMILTON ELEM.-MIDDLE SCHOOL B-4615  
6101 OLD HARFORD RD., BALTIMORE CITY, MD 21214  
NO MIHP #

PHOTO BY WILLIAM STICK 05.02.03  
1 EGS W/MO SHVD

1/4 VIEW WEST, ALONG SYLVAN AVE.  
atc513. R102-21A\_017

, Photo Gallery, 05/13/03



HAMILTON ELEM-MIDDLE SCHOOL

6101 OLD HARTFORD RD, HARTFORD, CT 06121

NO MAIL #

PHOTOBY W/12/13/03

NEGS W/MID SHPO

B-4615

2/1 YEAR ELEVATION

atc513, R102-23A-019

Photo Gallery: 05/13/03





HAMILTON ELEM.-MIDDLE SCHOOL B-4615  
610 OLD HARFORD RD., BALTIMORE CITY, MD 21214  
NO MIND #

PHOTO BY WILLIAM RIGGS 05.07.03  
NESS WIND SAPO

3/4 SOUTH WING, CHRISTOPHER AVE. IN BACKGROUN

atc513, R102-28A\_024

Photo Gallery, 05/13/03



HAMILTON FLEMING DIDDLE SCHOOL

B-4615

6101 OLD 2 RD RD 25, HAMILTON CITY, ONTARIO  
NO. 1000 #

PHOTO BY WILLIAM BIGGS 05.07.03

NEGS/NO. CHPO

4/4 NEW WING, SYLVANIA DE JEFFREY

atc513, R102-33A\_029

Photo Gallery, 05/13/03

# Maryland Historical Trust Inventory of Historic Properties Form

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic	Hamilton School No. 236 (preferred name)
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and/or common Hamilton Elementary/Middle School No. 236

## 2. Location

street &amp; number 6101 Old Harford Road not for publication

city, town      Baltimore      \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of      congressional district

state Maryland county

### 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

**name** City of Baltimore, c/o Mayor and City Council

street & number      City Hall      telephone no.    410-396-3100

city, town	Baltimore	state and zip code	Maryland 21202
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## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.	Clarence Mitchell Courthouse	liber
-------------------------------------	------------------------------	-------

street & number	100 North Calvert Street, Room 610	folio
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**city, town** Baltimore **state** Maryland 21202

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title	N/A
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date	federal	state	county	local
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depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. B-4615

### Condition

☐ excellent    ☐ deteriorated  
☒ good    ☐ ruins  
☐ fair    ☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved    date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Contributing resources - 1

Noncontributing resources - 0

### *Summary*

The Collegiate Gothic Revival-style Hamilton School No. 236, designed in 1925, was built in two stages. Its original central hyphen and south wing were completed in 1926; its north wing, which brought the school to its initially planned U-shape, was added in 1934. A three-story building raised on a full basement, the school is clad in brick laid in a Flemish bond pattern and accented by banks of windows and Gothic Revival-style cast-stone ornament. This ornament is especially notable at the doorway and oriel that mark the building's principal central entry. Subsidiary entries, particularly at the fronts of the wings, are also fringed with Gothic cast-stone ornament. The interior of the school is functionally designed, attuned more to educational needs than ornamentation, with nearly identical classrooms opening off of central corridors. Both the exterior and interior remain largely intact.

*see continuation sheets 7.1 through 7.4 for additional description*

## 8. Significance

Survey No. B-4615

Period	Areas of Significance - Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other(specify)

<b>Specific dates</b>	1925-26, 1934	<b>Builder/Architect</b>	Friz and Friz, Architects
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Applicable Criteria: ☒ A ☒ B ☒ C ☐ D  
 and/or  
 Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G  
 Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

### *Summary and Evaluation*

Hamilton School No. 236 was designed in 1925 by the architectural firm of Friz and Friz and built, in two planned stages, in 1926 and 1934. It was erected as part of Baltimore's intensive school building program of the 1920s and 1930s. Although unoccupied while awaiting renovation, the school is intact and retains its integrity. It is believed to be eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A as a representative of the city's progressive and ambitious building program of the 1920s and 1930s. It is also believed to be eligible under Criterion B, for Clyde N. Friz, its principal architect--whose designs included the Enoch Pratt Public Library--was one of Baltimore's more prominent early twentieth-century architects. The school is further believed to be eligible for Register listing under Criterion C for its Collegiate Gothic Revival-style finish and functional design. The Hamilton School has been declared eligible for National Register listing by the Maryland Historical Trust.

*see continuation sheets 8.1 through 8.6 for additional history*

### MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Eligibility recommended \_\_\_\_\_ Eligibility not recommended \_\_\_\_\_  
 Comments \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewer, OPS: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Reviewer, NR Program: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. B-4615

see continuation sheets 9.1 and 9.3 for references

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 3.83

Quadrangle name Baltimore East, MD

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	/ / /	/ / / / / / / /	/ / / / / / / /	B	/ / /	/ / / / / / / /	/ / / / / / / /
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	/ / /	/ / / / / / / /	/ / / / / / / /	D	/ / /	/ / / / / / / /	/ / / / / / / /
E	/ / /	/ / / / / / / /	/ / / / / / / /	F	/ / /	/ / / / / / / /	/ / / / / / / /
G	/ / /	/ / / / / / / /	/ / / / / / / /	H	/ / /	/ / / / / / / /	/ / / / / / / /

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries of this resource correspond to the lot upon which it is standing, which encompasses the 3.83 acres historically associated with it. *See attached property map.*

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Marvin Brown and Madeleine Scheerer		
organization	URS Greiner, Inc.	date	4-18-97
street & number	6200 Falls of Neuse Road, Suite 101	telephone	919-876-2760
city or town	Raleigh	state	North Carolina 27609

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

Return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCP/DHCD  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600



## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Continuation Sheet

B-4615

Hamilton School/No. 236

Baltimore City

Section 8/Significance

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### *Baltimore Public School Building Programs, 1920-1941*

Hamilton School No. 236 was built in 1925 during Baltimore's great school reevaluation and building program of the 1920s. As part of a national effort in early twentieth-century America to analyze and improve educational methods and school facilities, Baltimore hired Columbia University educational consultant George Drayton Strayer to evaluate its educational system. Strayer, who had conducted similar work for large municipalities, comprehensively surveyed the system, evaluating and rating its organization, administration, curriculum, and physical plant (Kurtze and Miller 1990:66-67). (Note: For a detailed history of Baltimore's school building programs of the 1920s and 1930s, see Kurtze and Miller 1990:66-93).

Strayer's survey commission, which reported its results in 1921, found numerous shortcomings in the system's school buildings. Its recommendations included a call for the development of a comprehensive long-range building program. It further made detailed suggestions about how the new schools should be organized and what they should look like, noting the types of facilities and programs they should provide, the amount of square feet per pupil they should contain, the dimensions of their classrooms, and even the heights of blackboards for each grade (Kurtze and Miller 1990:67-75).

With a \$7,000,000 loan for school improvements in hand, approved by Baltimore's voters in 1920, the system set about implementing Strayer's recommendations. It embarked on the city's first comprehensive plan for school construction, known as Building Program No. 1, erecting at least nine new schools between 1923 and 1927 (Kurtze and Miller 1990:76-82). In 1922 the voters ratified a second loan, for \$15,000,000, and a second building program was begun. Carried out concurrently with the first program, it led to the construction between 1925 and 1927 of 17 new or expanded facilities. Among the school's built during this second building program was the Hamilton School. The building programs transformed Baltimore's schools, providing modern classrooms and facilities for more than 33,000 students and improving facilities for many other students through a concerted program to upgrade existing schools. The *Baltimore Municipal Journal*, a city publication, called the period a "golden age" of education in the city (Kurtze and Miller 1990:84-85).

The first two school programs, in part because they were so rapid and extensive, employed more than 20 local architectural firms. Selected by an architectural commission and members of the city government and school board, most of these individuals and firms were given only a single commission. However, as discussed further below, Friz and Friz, the architects of the Hamilton School, designed four schools in the early and mid 1920s. The various architects employed numerous popular period styles in their designs, including the Renaissance Revival, Colonial

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Continuation Sheet

B-4615

Hamilton School/No. 236

Baltimore City

Section 8/Significance

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Revival and, as Friz and Friz did at the Hamilton School, the Collegiate Gothic (Kurtze and Miller 1990:77, 85-86).

A third building program, funded by a \$10,000,000 loan approved by voters in 1927, was directed towards 27 projects. It provided for upgrading and adding onto existing schools, as well as constructing new schools, some as part of planned multi-phased projects. The program was bolstered in 1930 by another loan, totaling \$1,500,000, for schools that met the needs of special students. Building activity during the 1930s was constrained because of economic hard times, however, and in spite of a sharp rise in school enrollment early in the decade, it did not approach that of the preceding decade (Kurtze and Miller 1990:86-93).

### *Hamilton School*

The Hamilton School was designed by Friz and Friz in 1925 and completed in 1926. The firm had previously designed Montebello School No. 44, which was completed in 1922 with funds provided by Building Program No. 1 (Kurtze and Miller 1990:79). The Hamilton School was one of three nearly identical buildings--the other two were the Arlington and Windsor Hills schools--designed by Friz and Friz. The firm was engaged to design the three schools as part of an attempt to save money in architectural fees and construction costs. The Arlington and Windsor Hills schools were each designed with twenty classrooms, a kindergarten, a household arts department, an industrial arts department, a lunchroom and kitchen, a community room, a health suite, a principal's office, and a teachers' room. The Hamilton School was almost identical, but contained four less classrooms (Kurtze and Miller 1990:82-83; Perring 1925).

The concurrent design of the three schools drew mixed reviews. The results were "quite satisfactory as far as the architectural handling" was concerned. The city was pleased with the Collegiate Gothic styles of the buildings and their utilization of space. The designs, however, proved to be "somewhat of a disappointment as to the reduction in costs," which actually proved to be slightly higher than the average for the time (Perring 1925).

The Hamilton School, and at least the Arlington School as well, was designed to be built in two stages, as indicated by its original plans, if not a 1925 rendering of the building. (The initial plot plan for Hamilton shows an L-shaped building and grading to be completed at the future site of the north wing.) Money was allocated from the third building program to enlarge Hamilton and Arlington. Hamilton had been constructed with its central hyphen and one wing, at the south. The northern wing was added in 1934, completing its originally contemplated U-shaped design (Kurtze and Miller 1990:92).

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### *Architects, Engineers, and Clyde N. Friz*

The original 1925 plans for the Hamilton School list the following principals involved in its design and construction: architects - Clyde N. Friz and Nelson Friz; mechanical engineer - Charles L. Reeder; structural engineer - Herman F. Doeleman; supervising engineer - Henry G. Perring ; and educational advisor - George D. Strayer. Electrical plans, dated 1926, were drawn by the Blumenthal Kahn Electrical Company, the building's electrical contractors. Strayer, discussed above, was involved directly or indirectly in the design of innumerable schools nationwide in the 1920s. Clyde N. Friz, discussed below, was a significant early twentieth-century Baltimore architect.

The 1934 addition to the school was also designed by Clyde N. and Nelson Friz. The engineers had changed however. Roeder, Eiser and Akers were the mechanical engineers, Kubitz and Koenig the structural engineers, and Herbert J. Leimbach the supervising engineer. George D. Strayer was not listed as the educational advisor, but the addition had essentially already been designed with his guidance a decade earlier.

Clyde N. Friz was the principal of the of firm Friz and Friz, whose commissions included the Hamilton School and Baltimore's Enoch Pratt Public Library. He was born May 13, 1867, in Chester, Michigan, and educated in Abilene, Kansas, where his parents moved when he was 11. He studied at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, which he left prior to graduation, returning to Abilene. On March 15, 1892, he married Ethel E. Murphy in Abilene. They subsequently moved to St. Louis, where he was engaged as an architectural draftsman. He worked for a number of firms in St. Louis before relocating in 1900 to Baltimore, where he remained until his death (*Baltimore Sun* 1942b; Withey and Withey 1956:223-224).

In Baltimore, Friz initially worked for Wyatt and Nolting, a prominent local architectural firm whose designs included the Baltimore Courthouse, which was under construction when he joined them. In 1904 he formed a partnership with William Gordon Beecher, who also had been associated with Wyatt and Nolting. Two years later the firm of Beecher, Friz and Gregg designed The Garage, a large Prairie-style automobile showroom. This building, which still stands, though much altered, in Baltimore, is the first commission identified with Friz (*Baltimore Sun* 1942b; Withey and Withey 1956:223-224; Dorsey and Dilts 1981; *Baltimore Evening Sun* 1933; Hunter and Elam 1957).

In the early 1920s, five Baltimore apartment buildings designed by Friz were pictured and discussed, along with apartment houses by other architects, as part of a series of articles on "Tendencies in Apartment House Design" in the *Architectural Record* (1921a, 1921b, 1922a,

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Continuation Sheet

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1922b, and 1922c). The Caroletta and Clyde, the Tuscany, the Campagnia, the Windsor Court, and the Lombardy apartment buildings (their names suggest their generally Mediterranean-influenced designs), they were noted for their use of varied plans and shapes and for their provision of separate garage buildings. They were credited solely to Friz, who apparently had opened his own office by this time.

In 1925, with his brother Nelson--as the firm of Friz and Friz--Clyde Friz designed three nearly identical Baltimore city public schools--Arlington, Windsor Hills, and Hamilton--which were constructed in 1926. Coupled with the Montebello School (1921-1922), these schools gave Clyde Friz the distinction of being the only individual to design four schools, albeit three identical ones, during the boom of city school construction in the 1920s (Perring 1925; Kurtze and Miller 1990:79, 82-83, 86). (Clyde Friz is generally given credit in secondary sources for the buildings of Friz and Friz. Little is known of Nelson other than scandalous family matters. In 1934 his wife of 12 years, Vivien, was granted a divorce from him on the grounds of desertion. He had moved to Long Island, New York, reportedly only returning to Baltimore on occasion to visit his daughter (Anonymous c.1934). An obituary for him was printed in neither the *Baltimore Sun* nor the *New York Times*.)

In 1933 Clyde Friz's most important building, the Enoch Pratt Library, was completed. The massive classically finished structure, still Baltimore's major public library, was noted for its street-level entrance, which was designed to make it more accessible to the public. This street-level entry became the model for other libraries erected along similarly democratic lines. Credited along with Friz and Friz on the design were associated and consulting architects E.L. Tilton and A.N. Githens of the Baltimore firm of Tilton and Githens. (The design was made known to architects throughout the country when it was pictured as the lead library in an article on library planning and design in the June, 1932, issue of the *Architectural Forum* which, not coincidentally, was written by Edward L. Tilton.)

1933 also saw the completion in downtown Baltimore of Friz's Scottish Rite Temple of Freemasonry, which was marked by the monumental raised portico eschewed at the Pratt. Its consulting architect was John Russell Pope and there remains some question in the Baltimore architectural community as to how substantial Pope's role was in the design (Wollon 1997). Friz was a thirty-third degree Mason at the time of his death--he was buried with the rites of the order (*Baltimore Sun* 1942a)--which may have helped him secure the commission.

Many gaps remain in the record of Clyde N. Friz's career. For a time he was in partnership with Baltimore architect Edward H. Glidden (Wollon 1997). Glidden, who died in 1924, is largely remembered for his apartment house designs (Dorsey and Dilts 1981:273). Friz's obituary notes



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that in addition to the Pratt Library and the Scottish Rite Temple, he designed in the Baltimore area the Home Friendly Insurance Building, the Central Fire Insurance Company Building, the Knights of Pythias Building (with whom he was also associated), the Standard Oil Company Building, several churches, and many houses (*Baltimore Sun* 1942b). The churches may have included Catonsville Presbyterian Church, which he is believed to have designed, in 1921, with William Gordon Beecher (although Beecher's obituary suggests that Beecher designed it independently (Wollon 1997; *Baltimore Sun* 1963). His only identified domestic work was the 1930s design for the renovation of Maryland's official gubernatorial residence, Government House, in Annapolis (*Baltimore Sun* 1942s). In addition to his association with fraternal orders, he was also active in local and state architectural circles, serving as president of the Baltimore chapter of the American Institute of Architects and as chairman of the Maryland Registration of Architects. Although many of his buildings have yet to be identified, Clyde Friz's known commissions place among Baltimore's more prominent early twentieth-century architects.

### *Neighborhood*

In the nineteenth century, the area in which the Hamilton School is located stood east of Baltimore's city limits and was "rolling farm land with scattered clumps of trees" (Goodspeed 1950). The community received the name Hamilton around 1900, when a post office of that name was established at Purdom's drugstore. The store stood with a few other buildings at the intersection of Harford Road and Hamilton Avenue, which marked the commercial center of the rural community. About a half mile northeast of the intersection, at the intersection of Harford and Old Harford roads, just southwest of the school grounds, was a blacksmith's forge and wheelwright's shop. There one could reportedly watch a wagon be constructed from the ground up. The community was connected to Baltimore by Harford Road along which, beginning in 1895, an electric trolley line ran (Sindall 1948; Imwold 1962).

Growth, spurred by the trolley line and a general expansion of the city to the east, was rapid in Hamilton. It was begun in earnest in 1905-06 by Dr. George C. Wegefarth, who bought and began developing 242 acres near the intersection of Harford Road and Hamilton Avenue. By 1915 approximately one-third of the community was laid out in blocks and house lots (Sindall 1948; Imwold 1962). In 1918 Hamilton was brought into the city as part of an extensive annexation and its growth continued apace. An anonymous 1924 promotional brochure for Hamilton advertises businesses and developments, including Shadowlawn ("Hamilton's Complete Development," featuring "Seven-Room Semi-Bungalows, Complete in Every Detail"), Milton Terrace ("Money Cannot Buy Finer Homes, Prettier Surrounds or Better Location"), and the bungalows of the New Annex Building Corporation, self-declared "Builders of Quality Homes."

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Continuation Sheet

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Hamilton School/No. 236

Baltimore City

Section 8/Significance

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Small frame bungalows and Colonial-and other Period-Revival-style dwellings were indeed erected in great numbers in Hamilton in the teens, twenties, and beyond.

All of this growth created a need for Hamilton School which, when it opened in 1926, served a student population of between 400 and 500. With continued population growth, the planned addition was constructed in 1934. By 1954 the student body exceeded 1,200, reflecting the urbanization of the community. Student numbers dropped to 633 in 1974 and as low as 242 in 1981. Calls in 1981 and 1992 for closing the school were rejected by the community and, with the study body stabilized above 600 and the area's population increasing, plans were made for closing, modernizing, and reopening the school (Baltimore City Public Schools c.1994). In April, 1996, the school stood empty and its rehabilitation had yet to begin.

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Continuation Sheet

B-4615

Hamilton School No. 236

Baltimore City

Section 9/Major Bibliographical References

Page 9.1

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## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Continuation Sheet

B-4615

Hamilton School No. 236

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Section 9/Major Bibliographical References

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Section 9/Major Bibliographical References

Page 9.3

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**Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Continuation Sheet**

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Hamilton School No. 236

Baltimore City

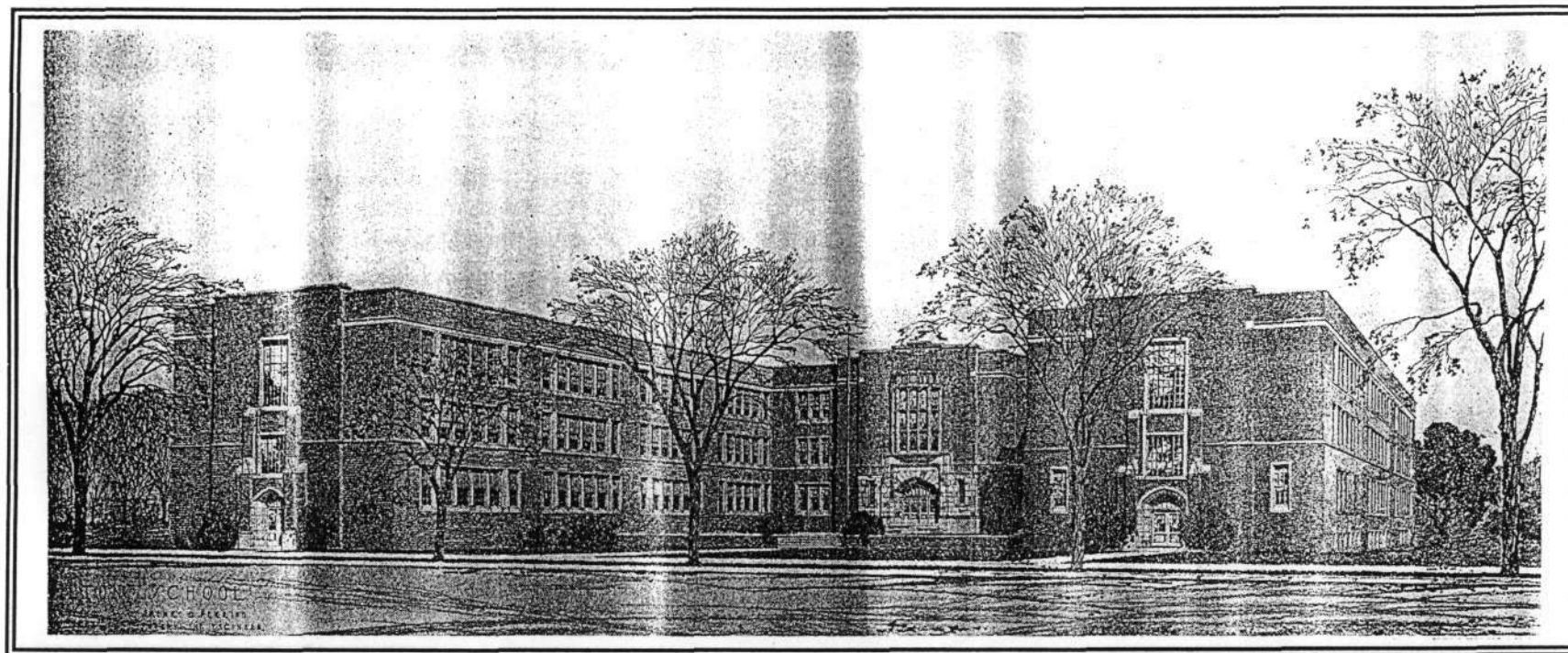
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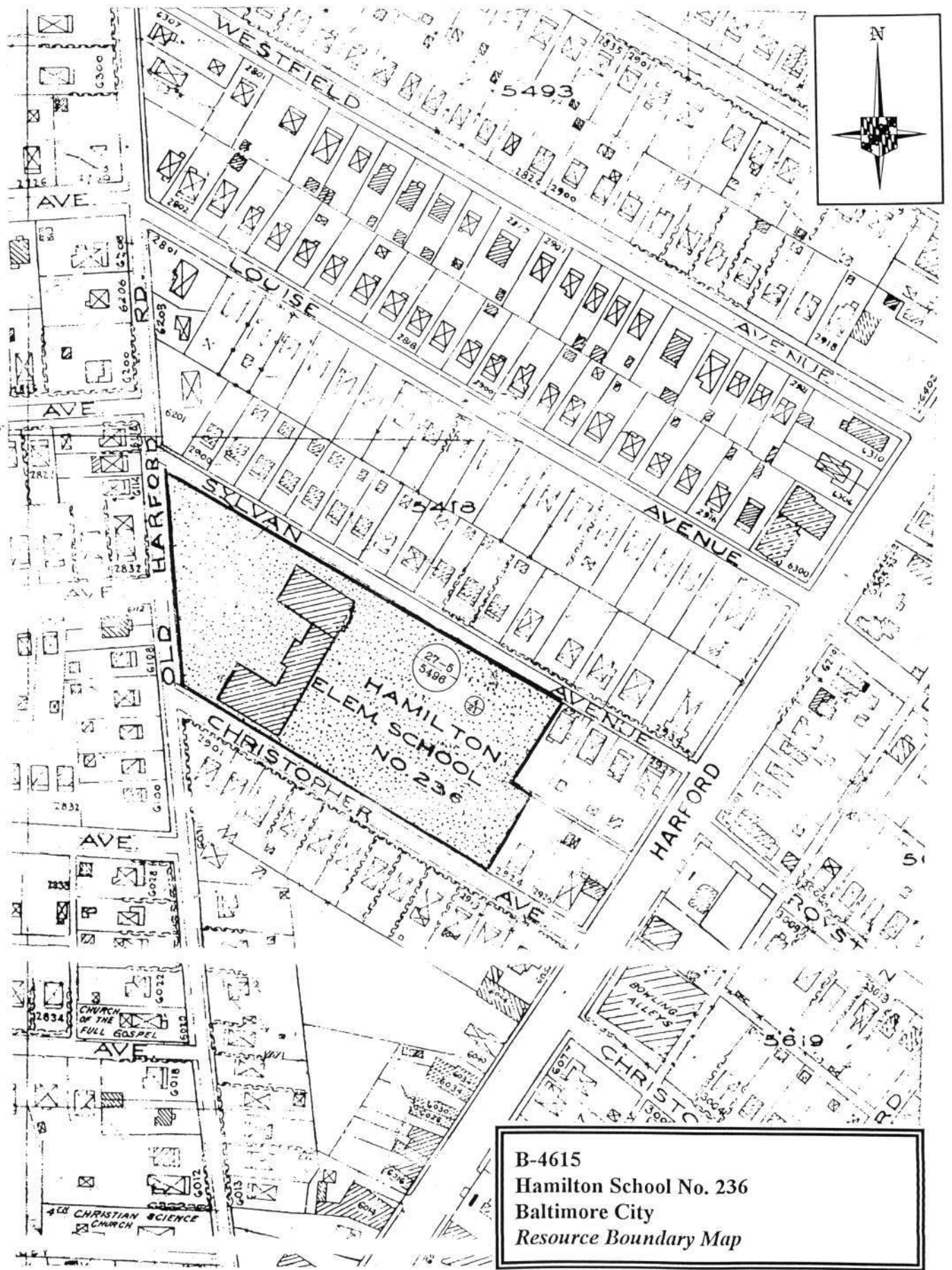
*Chronological/Development Periods:* Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870-1930; Modern Period, 1930-Present

*Historic Period Themes:* Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Community Planning;  
Social/Educational/Cultural

*Resource Types:* School



Architect's Rendering of Hamilton School No. 236, 1925 (Source: *Baltimore Municipal Journal*, October 26, 1925)  
Note: North wing, at left, was not constructed until 1934.



1135

S W PIPE  
SYLVAN

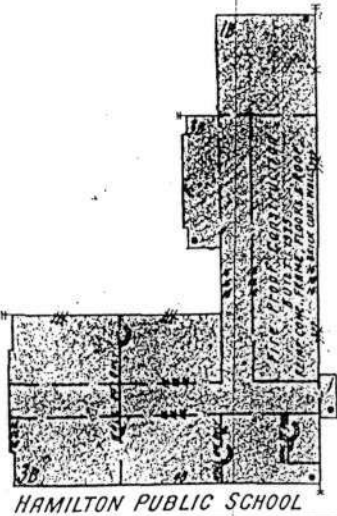
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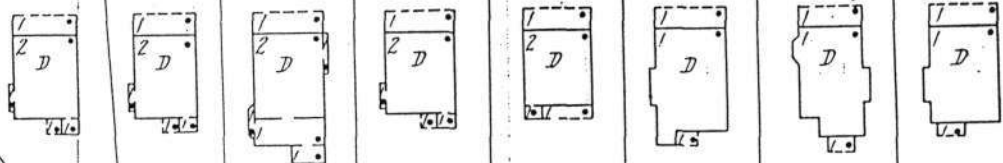
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HAMILTON PUBLIC SCHOOL

CHRISTOPHER AV.

2901 2903 2905 2907 2909 2911 2913 2915



BEECHLAND AV.

OLD HARFORD RD

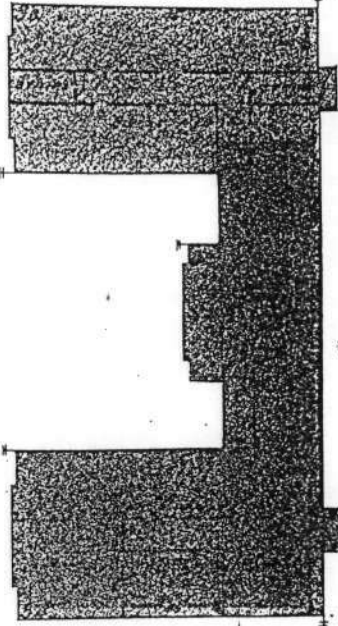
B-4615  
Hamilton School No. 236  
Baltimore City  
1929 Sanborn Map

1135

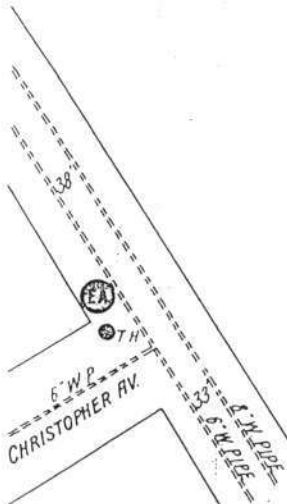
6" W. PIPE SYLVAN

AV.

HAMILTON PUBLIC SCHOOL No 236



4

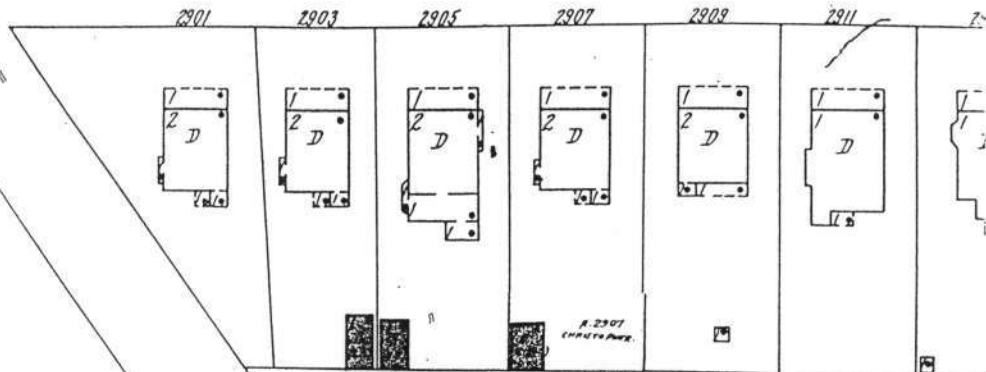


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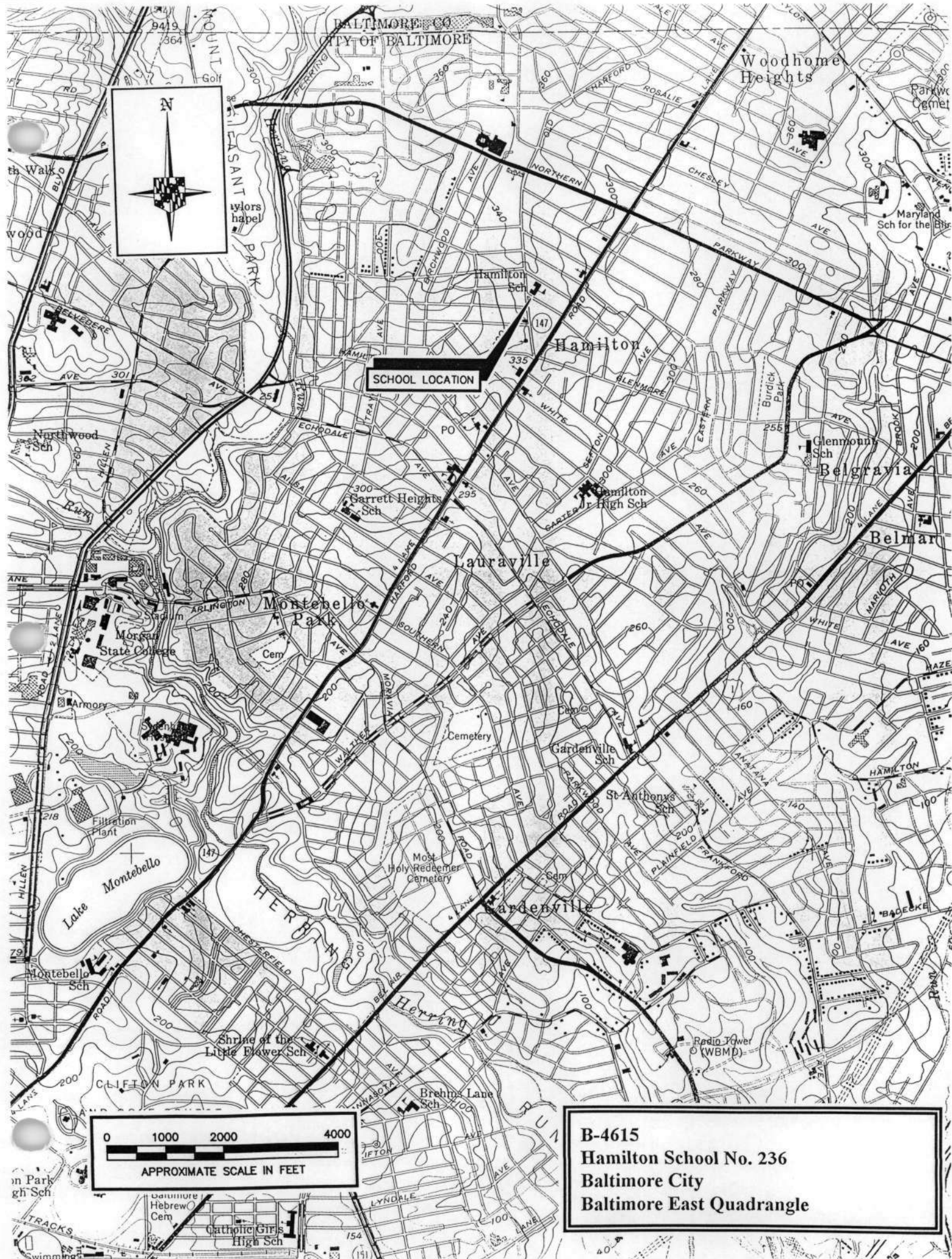
4" W. PIPE

CHRISTOPHER



B-4615  
Hamilton School No. 236  
Baltimore City  
1942 Revision of 1929 Sanborn Map





**B-4615**  
**Hamilton School No. 236**  
**Baltimore City**  
**Baltimore East Quadrangle**





B-4615

Hamilton School No. 236

Baltimore City, MD

Photographer: Madeleine Scheerer

4/97

Neg. location : URS Greiner, Inc.  
6200 Falls of Neuse Rd.

Raleigh, NC 27609

W front and N side elevations (1934 wing at left)

1 of 9



B-4615

Hamilton School No 236

Baltimore City, MD

Photographer: Madeleine Scheerer

4/97

Neg. location: URS Greiner, Inc.

6200 Falls of Neuse Rd.

Raleigh, NC 27609

W front facade, principal entry

2 of 9



B-4615

Hamilton School No. 236

Baltimore City, MD

Photographer: Madeleine Scheerer

4/97

Neg. location: URS Greiner, Inc.

6200 Falls of Neuse Rd.

Raleigh, NC 27609

W front facade

3 of 9



B-4615

Hamilton School No 236

Baltimore City, MD

Photographer: Marvin Brown

4/97

Neg. Location: URS Greiner, Inc.

6200 Falls of Neuse Rd.

Raleigh, NC 27609

S side and W front elevations

4 of 9





B-4615

Hamilton School No 236

Baltimore City, MD

Photographer: Marnie Brown

4/97

Neg. location: VRS Greiner, Inc.

6200 Falls of Neuse Rd.

Raleigh, NC 27609

E rear elevation

5 of 9



B-4615

Hamilton School No 236

Baltimore City, MD

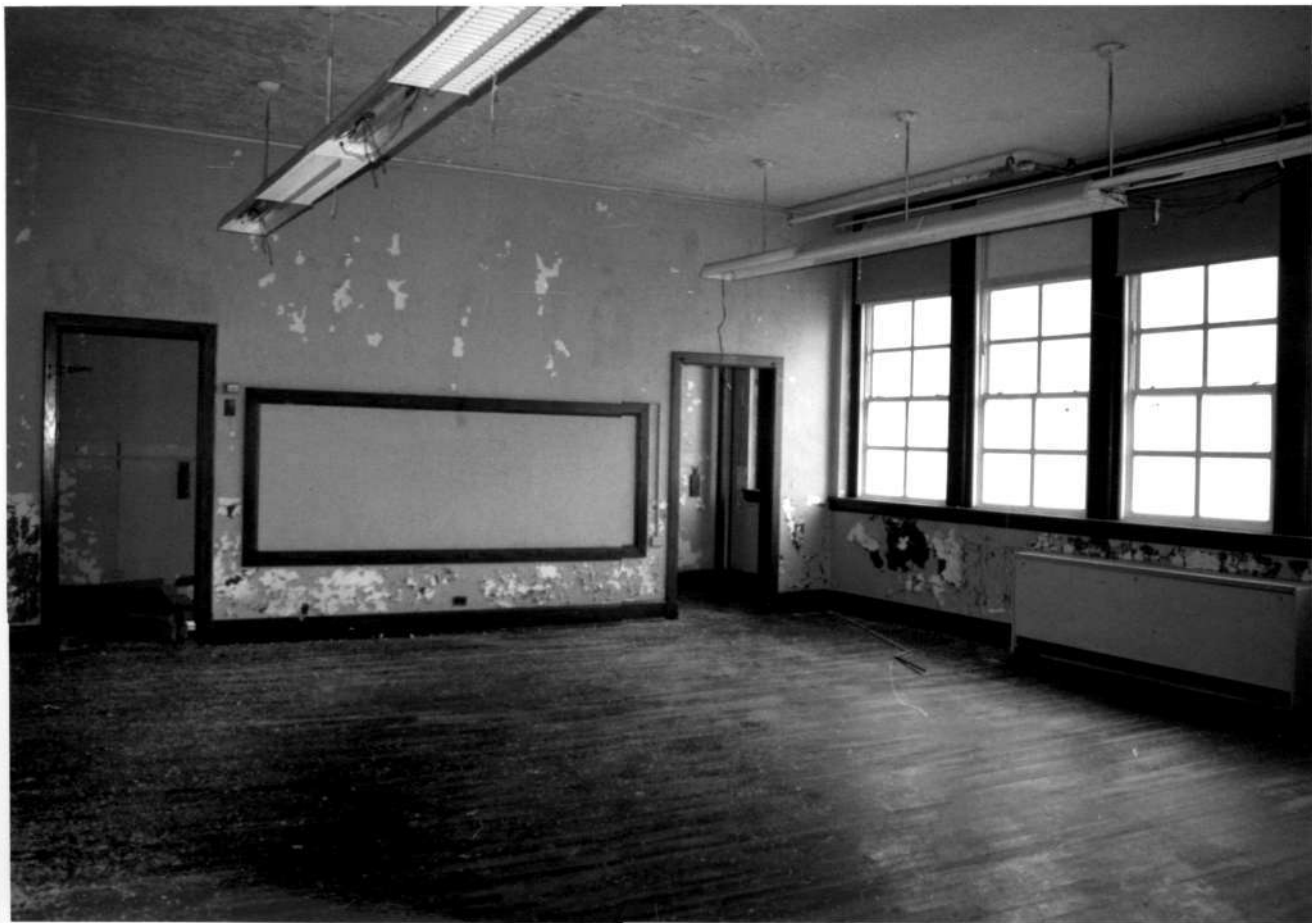
Photographer : Marvin L Brown

4/97

Neg. Location : URS Greiner, Inc.  
6020 Falls of Neuse Rd.  
Raleigh, NC 27609

E rear and S side elevations

6 of 9



B-4615

Hamilton School No. 236

Baltimore City, MD

Photographer: Madeleine Scheerer

4/97

Neg. location: ORS Greiner, Inc.  
6200 Falls of Neuse Rd.  
Raleigh, NC 27609

Classroom

7 of 9



B-4615

Hamilton School No. 236

Baltimore City, MD

Photographer: Madeleine Scheerer

4/97

Neg. location: URS Greiner, Inc.  
6200 Falls of Neuse Rd.  
Raleigh, NC 27609

Classroom

8 of 9





B-4615

Hamilton School No. 236

Baltimore City, MD

Photographer: Madeleine Scheerer

4/47

Neg. Location: URS Greiner, Inc.  
6200 Falls of Neuse Rd.  
Raleigh, NC 27609

Corridor, Stairwell

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